IN THE CLAIMS

The Claims are reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A pyrogenically produced silica powder comprising particles each having a homogeneous composition, wherein the pyrogenically produced silica powder has

- a BET surface area of 30 to 90 m^2/g,
- a DBP number of at least 80, expressed as g of dibutyl phthalate/100 g of silica and
- a tamped density of no more than 110 g/l.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The pyrogenically produced silica powder according to Claim 1, wherein the average aggregate circumference is at least 1000 nm.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The pyrogenically produced silica powder according to Claim 1, wherein the kurtosis of the aggregate area is at least 20.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The pyrogenically produced silica powder according to Claim 1, wherein the pyrogenically produced silica powder has a pH value, measured in a 4 per cent aqueous dispersion, of between 3.8 and 5.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The pyrogenically produced silica powder according to Claim 1, wherein

- the BET surface area is 35 to 55 m^2/g,
- the DBP number is 100 to 130 g dibutyl phthalate/100 g silicon dioxide,
- and the pH value, measured in a 4% aqueous dispersion, is 4.3 to 4.8.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn-Previously Presented): A process for the production of the silica powder of Claim 1, wherein at least one vaporous silicon compound, a gas containing free oxygen (primary air) and a combustible gas are mixed together in a closed burner and then burnt in a flame in the flame tube of the burner, the solid obtained is separated from the gas mixture and optionally purified, wherein

- the oxygen content of the gas containing free oxygen is adjusted such that the lambda value is greater than or equal to 1, and
- the gamma value is between 1.2 and 1.8.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): The process according to Claim 6, wherein $1 \leq$ lambda ≤ 1.2.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): The process according to Claim 6, wherein in addition, secondary air is introduced into the flame tube, secondary air/primary air being ≤ 1.1.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The process according to Claim 6, wherein the proportion of oxygen in the gas containing free oxygen is between 30 and 40 vol.%.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The process according to Claim 6, wherein silicon halides, organochlorosilicon compounds or organosilicon compounds and mixtures of the above compounds are used as the silicon compound.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The process according to Claim 6, wherein $1 \leq$ lambda ≤ 1.2, $1.2 \leq$ gamma ≤ 1.8, the ratio of secondary air / primary air is ≤ 1.1 and the proportion

of oxygen in the gas containing free oxygen is between 30 and 40 vol.% and the silicon compound is silicon tetrachloride.

Claims 12-16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): A method for adjusting the rheology of a liquid system comprising adding the pyrogenically produced silica powder as claimed in Claim 1 to a liquid.

Claims 18-23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The pyrogenically produced silica powder according to Claim 1, wherein the particles consist of silica.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The pyrogenically produced silica powder according to Claim 1, wherein the powder consists of silica.